

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5296

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1669

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT RO UR

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU SPEECH ON 1848 REVOLUTION INTERPRETED AS
ATTEMPT TO KEEP ALIVE ROMANIAN CLAIM TO SOVIET- OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CEAUSESCU, ACCOMPANIED BY MAURER, TROFIN, POPESCU AND BURTICA, LAUNCHED UNUSUAL CELEBRATION OF 125 TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1848 REVOLUTION IN IASI WITH PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH AND ENORMOUS PRESS COVERAGE (SOLID FOUR PAGES OF SCINTEA TODAY). ROMANIAN AND EVEN OTHER EE OBSERVERS CONSIDER THAT IASI WAS PURPOSELY SELECTED AS SITE FOR LAUNCHING CELEBRATION BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO SOVIET- OCCUPIED BESSARABIA RATHER THAN FOR INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE OF IASI IN 1848. CEAUSESCU' S SPEECH ITSELF IS COUCHED IN PURELY HISTORICAL TERMS WITH NO OVERT REFERENCE TO SOVIET OCCUPATION OF BESSARABIA AND NORTHERN BUKOVINA BUT SOME OF THEMES CONCERNING FOREIGN OPPRESSION AND DREAM OF UNITING ALL ROMANIANS IN SINGLE STATE WOULD BE TAKEN BY ROMANIAN AUDIENCES, ESPECIALLY IN MOLDAVIA, AS APPLICABLE TO CONTINUING RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF ROMANIAN LANDS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ROMANIAN CELEBRATION OF 1848 REVOLUTION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED ON MASSIVE SCALE WITH NUMEROUS ARTICLES IN PRESS AND MAGAZINES OVER PAST WEEK, ALL APPARENTLY IN PREPARATION FOR CEAUSESCU TOUR WHICH BEGAN IN IASI AND WHICH WILL REPORTEDLY PROCEED WITH ADDITIONAL SPEECHES AT BLAJ IN TRANSYLVANIA, CRAIOVA IN OLTENIA, AND IN BUCHAREST. 1848 REVOLUTION IN ROMANIA WAS PRIMARILY NATIONAL IN CONTENT AND AIMED NOT ONLY AT LIBERATION FROM DOMINION OF THREE MAJOR POWERS (OTTOMAN EMPIRE, RUSSIA, AND AUSTRO- HUNGARY) BUT AT UNIFICATION OF OLTENIA AND MUNTENIA (MAKING UP WALLACHIA) MOLDAVIA, AND TRANSYLVANIA. MAIN CENTERS OF 1848 REVOLUTION WERE TRANSYLVANIA AND BUCHAREST ALTHOUGH LESS SIGNIFICANT MANIFESTATIONS OCCURRED ELSEWHERE INCLUDING MOLDAVIA. IN- SO FAR AS IASI WAS CENTER OF 1848 REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY, IT WAS IN CONTEXT OF A MOLDAVIA THAT INCLUDED BESSARABIA, AND LIBERATION OF LATTER FROM RUSSIAN IMPERIAL DOMINATION WAS A MAJOR THEME OF 1848 AGITATION IN IASI, ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN INFORMANT. THIS BACKGROUND IS ILLUMINATING IN CONSIDERING WHY CEAUSESCU DECIDED TO KICK OFF 1848 REVOLUTION CELEBRATION IN IASI AND EVEN WHY 1848 IS BEING GIVEN SUCH ATTENTION.

3. CEAUSESCU' S SPEECH ITSELF CAUTIOUSLY AVOIDS ANY CLEAR REFERENCES TO CURRENT STATUS OF LOST TERRITORY; IT DOES STRESS THAT 1848 REVOLUTION WAS DIRECTED AGAINST FOREIGN DOMINATION AND IT CONTAINS NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO MISGUIDED RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM OVER MOLDAVIA (I. E.- CHIEFLY BESSARABIA). RUSSIAN " DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARIES" LIKE DOBROLYUBOV ARE CITED TO EFFECT THAT UNIFICATION INTO A " SINGLE ROMANIAN STATE" WAS DESIRE OF ROMANIAN PEOPLE (AND BY IMPLICATION SHOULD BE SUPPORTED). ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT CEAUSESCU CITED STATEMENT BY ROMANIAN HERO OF PERIOD KOGALNICEANU MADE IN CERNAUTI (CERNOVTSY). CEAUSESCU ALSO CITED IMPOSITION OF " ORGANIC REGULATION" BY RUSSIAN EMPIRE AS ACT THAT LEGITIMIZED FEUDAL CONDITIONS AND QUOTED MARX AGAINST IT IN CONTEXT CRITICAL OF RUSSIAN GENERAL KISELEFF, EVEN THOUGH LATTER IS USUALLY REGARDED HERE AS LIBERAL FIGURE AND ONE OF FEW FOREIGNERS ACCORDED POSITIVE PLACE IN ROMANIAN HISTORY (ONE OF MAIN STREETS OF BUCHAREST - AND SITE OF SOVIET EMBASSY - IS AVENUE KISELEFF).

4. OF MORE INTEREST THAN PRECISE CONTENT OF SPEECH, OR EVEN OUR INFERENCES ABOUT CEAUSESCU' S MEANING, IS FACT THAT SPEECH
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AND CELEBRATION ARE APPARENTLY BEING TAKEN BY ROMANIANS AND EASTERN EUROPEANS AS EFFORT TO KEEP BESSARABIAN CLAIM ALIVE ALTHOUGH WITHOUT PRESSING CLAIM UNDER CURRENT UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS.

CZECH, POLISH AND BULGARIAN COUNSELLORS ALL TOOK INITIATIVE LAST NIGHT IN GIVING US SUCH AN INTERPRETATION AND SAME POINT

ALSO MADE BY FEW ROMANIANS WHO HAVE COMMENTED.
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